

daughter's graduation from law school. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 179, cloture on the nomination of Jennifer Rochon to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York; yea on rollcall vote No. 180, cloture on the nomination of Trina Thompson to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California; and yea on rollcall vote No. 181, cloture on the nomination of Sunshine Sykes to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California.

On May 18, 2022, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, and 189 while attending my daughter's graduation from law school. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 182, confirmation of Jennifer Rochon to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York; yea on rollcall vote No. 183, cloture on the nomination of Barbara Leaf to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs; yea on rollcall vote No. 184, confirming Barbara Leaf to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs; yea on rollcall vote No. 185, cloture on the nomination of Elizabeth Watson to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; yea on rollcall vote No. 186, confirming Elizabeth Watson to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; yea on rollcall vote No. 187, confirming Trina Thompson to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California; yea on rollcall vote No. 188, confirming Sunshine Sykes to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California; and yea on rollcall vote No. 189, confirming Christopher Lowman to be Assistant Secretary of Defense.

On May 19, 2022, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 190, 191, 192, and 193 while attending my daughter's graduation from law school. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall votes Nos. 190 and 191, cloture and final passage, respectively, of H.R. 7691, the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2022. Since the beginning of Russia's brutal war, I have been a strong supporter of additional aid to Ukraine, and I am glad that this legislation passed the Senate with broad, bipartisan support.

Had I been present on May 19, I also would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 192, cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 4008, the Small Business COVID Relief Act of 2022. This important bipartisan legislation would have provided over \$40 billion in COVID relief to support restaurants, live entertainment venues, and other struggling small businesses. I have been a long-time supporter of replenishing the Restaurant Revitalization Fund and providing more aid to small businesses, so I was extremely disappointed that the Senate fell many votes short of beginning debate on S. 4008. I will continue to be a champion for Nevada's restaurants and small businesses, working to make sure they get the resources needed to get back on their feet.

Finally, had I been present on May 19, I would have voted yea on rollcall

vote No. 193, cloture on the nomination of Stephanie Davis to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

#### TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL CHASE DAVID PATRICK

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today, I honor a superb leader, liaison and warrior. After 2 years of service as Director of the Navy Senate Liaison Office, Chase Patrick is deservedly moving on and assuming the responsibilities of a rear admiral, lower half. I believe it is fitting to recognize Admiral Patrick's distinguished service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Navy and the Senate.

While I was just starting my time in the Senate in 1994, Admiral Patrick was graduating from the University of Virginia that same year. He showed his value quickly upon joining the Navy and has been consistently relied upon for his exceptional leadership and unparalleled work ethic. A surface warfare officer by designation, Admiral Patrick has led our Nation's young men and women on shore and at sea, most prominently in command of USS *Chafee* (DDG-90), where the Navy selected him to receive the Vice Admiral Stockdale Award for Inspirational Leadership and Commander Destroyer Squadron 50 and Task Force 55.

Admiral Patrick has excelled in numerous other leadership positions in the Navy, most recently as the director of the Navy Senate Liaison. In Washington, DC, and around the globe, Admiral Patrick filled the role that was initially created and held by the late Senator John McCain after his return from Vietnam as a Navy Captain. Decades later, Admiral Patrick had the job of leading the Navy Senate Liaison Office through the COVID-19 pandemic, relentlessly coordinating congressional delegations for our Members and our staffs during the most troubling of times and ensuring continuity between this Chamber and the U.S. Navy.

Over the course of the last few years, Admiral Patrick led six congressional delegations to 10 different countries. He escorted over half of the Members of this Chamber on travel and became a trusted adviser and friend to many of us. I have had the pleasure of traveling with Admiral Patrick on several trips, including his first trip as director of the Navy Senate Liaison Office. He distinguished himself by going above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate and successfully execute each and every congressional delegation, despite any number of weather, aircraft, and diplomatic challenges.

This month, Admiral Patrick departs Washington for Naples, Italy, to serve as the director of Maritime Headquarters, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, Africa and Sixth Fleet. This Chamber will feel Admiral Patrick's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Admiral Patrick for his out-

standing leadership and unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Navy. I especially recognize his patient and supportive family, his wife Mrs. Paurenia Patrick and his children, Sara, Chase, Jr., Harry, and Oliver. I wish this Navy family "fair winds and following seas."

#### TRIBUTE TO LEE J. LOFTHUS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my appreciation for a dedicated public servant, Mr. LEE J. Lofthus of Maryland, who is retiring after nearly 40 years of public service at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Lee received his MBA from American University in 1982 and joined the Department shortly thereafter. Since then, he has served in a number of positions, including the last 16 years as its Assistant Attorney General for Administration, the highest ranking career position at the Department of Justice. In this role, he has been responsible for many duties, including serving as the Department's chief financial officer, leading its financial reporting, annual financial statement, budget formulation and execution, accounting operations, asset forfeiture fund support and debt management support. As Assistant Attorney General, he has also been the Department's chief ethics official while also overseeing its facilities, procurement, human resources, and planning. Lee also served as the Department of Justice career Agency Transition Director for every Presidential transition since 2008. His leadership has been essential to the Department's operations.

I know Lee from his role as the top Department of Justice liaison with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. In my time as both chairman and ranking member of the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I have seen firsthand Lee's deft understanding and management of the congressional appropriations process. He has been an asset to both the Department and the Appropriations Committees and will be missed by all of those who have worked with and for him.

Lee has many interests outside of his work, and he will now have the opportunity to focus more time on those interests, foremost among those his wife Dawn and his sons Mike and Austin. I also expect Lee will dedicate more time to caring for animals, including his affinity for dachshunds and his occasional adoption of a wayward bird. Lee may even find some time to indulge his devotion to Bob Dylan.

The one activity to which I am certain Lee will be devoting his time is enhancing his status as one of the Nation's leading numismatists. Lee's role as the Department of Justice's CFO makes even more sense once you learn that he has long been a nationally recognized, published, and award-winning expert on U.S. paper currency. Lee's particular emphasis is on National

Bank Notes, which were effectively a form of national currency until being discontinued in the 1930s. The ledgers Lee is familiar with are not just the ones involved in the Department's budgeting, but also the original Treasury Department ledgers tracing the return and destruction of these notes. I wish Lee continued success in this field.

Above all else, Lee will leave behind a legacy of strong, calm, and effective leadership. Few can fill the multifaceted role he held at the Department but even fewer can do so in the universally respected and admired manner that he did so.

The Nation and the Department of Justice have lost a great asset. I commend Lee for his many accomplishments and for his selfless service to this country. He will be missed. On behalf of Kansans and a grateful nation, I personally thank Lee for his service to our Nation and congratulate him on his retirement; he has earned a long and fulfilling one.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING DONALD ROSS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Donald K. Ross, a tireless organizer for democracy. Sadly, Mr. Ross passed away on May 14, 2022, at the age of 78. He will be remembered for his lifetime of civic service and advocacy.

Born in the Bronx, NY, Mr. Ross was a leader from an early age. As student body president, he successfully revived Fordham University's football program, an experience he credited with teaching him how to organize. Upon graduation, Mr. Ross spent 2 years with the Peace Corps in Nigeria, before graduating from New York University's law school in 1970.

From there, Mr. Ross joined consumer advocate Ralph Nader's Public Citizen movement, becoming one of the original "Nader's Raiders." In 1971, they co-wrote "Action for Change: A Student's Manual for Public Interest Organizing," which led to the organization of Public Interest Research Groups—PRIGs—across the country. These organizations combine research and public action, encouraging public citizens to get involved in important advocacy issues. Mr. Ross became the director of the New York PRIG, where he advanced a number of political reforms and advocated for increased government transparency.

Mr. Ross was also an outspoken anti-nuclear advocate. After the tragic accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, Mr. Ross organized anti-nuclear rallies that drew hundreds of thousands of demonstrators. That he was able to mobilize so many people in mere weeks after the accident is a testament to his leadership skills and passion for the cause.

In addition to his organizing expertise, Mr. Ross was also a dedicated philanthropist. From 1985 to 1999, he was director of the Rockefeller Family Fund, a charitable organization where he worked to expand access to grants for charitable causes. Additionally, Mr. Ross cofounded and managed the Environmental Grantmakers Association, which has grown to include over 200 member foundations around the world. A champion of numerous causes, Mr. Ross directed the National Campaign to Reform Juvenile Justice Systems from 2009 to 2017.

In my home State, Mr. Ross organized the Connecticut Citizen Action Group, a statewide organization dedicated to actively engaging residents to build a more sustainable, just society. In this and every endeavor he undertook in his remarkable career, Mr. Ross was on the frontlines of democracy, fighting to make our world a better place.

Connecticut and the Nation have lost a great civic organizer and champion of democracy. Mr. Ross's tireless devotion to many worthy causes—from environmental protection, to consumer advocacy, to criminal justice reform, and so many others—serves as a model of dedication and civic engagement. Through his work and his writings, Mr. Ross has inspired a generation of citizens to become engaged in their communities and fight for a more just world. While he will be sorely missed, his legacy will live on in those who continue his work.

My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to Donald's family during this difficult time, particularly to his wife Helen, and his children Katherine, Margaret, and Mike. May their many wonderful memories of Donald provide them solace and comfort in the days ahead. I hope my colleagues will join me in remembering Donald K. Ross.●

##### RECOGNIZING DADS ON DUTY

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a group of committed Louisiana fathers making a difference in their community and the lives of their children.

Violence within the halls of Southwood High School in Shreveport reached a concerning peak in the fall of 2021, when 23 students were arrested in just 3 days.

Mr. Michael LaFitte gathered 40 fellow concerned fathers, including David Telsee, III, Michael Morgan, Zachery Johnson, and Kenneth Henry, Jr., and established a wholesome presence in the halls of Southwood High. They were able to quell conflict and violence. They are promoting peace, order, and dropping dad jokes with a profound impact. They have prevented fights and arrests since forming their group, Dads on Duty. By fostering a safer environment in Southwood High, Dads on Duty has allowed the youth to focus on learning and growing.

Dads on Duty is demonstrating a strategy they believe can benefit students in other schools. They have plans to introduce this program of engaged parents in each Caddo Parish school campus moving forward.

Dads on Duty has garnered attention at the city, parish, State, and national levels—and rightfully so. I applaud their efforts and look forward to seeing how they can continue to better our communities.●

##### REMEMBERING BRIAN DENNIS BALBUENA

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Brian Dennis Balbuena, a devoted son, brother, and friend who passed away on April 3, 2022, after a hard-fought battle with brain cancer.

Born March 14, 1983, Brian used his time on earth to bring joy and light into the hearts of others. Having battled and beat cancer at the age of 5, Brian enjoyed finding new ways to "Pay it Forward" to those around him. Brian will be remembered by his family and friends as a loving and compassionate person who had a contagious smile and a presence that brightened any room he entered.

He leaves behind his incredible parents, Tina and Mark, his siblings, Amber and Dustin, and a host of nieces and nephews. May his legacy and kind spirit serve as an inspiration to us all.●

##### REMEMBERING COLONEL LOUIS "LOU" LEE MYERS, JR.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of retired Colonel Louis (Lou) Lee Myers, Jr., a 38-year veteran of the Illinois Army National Guard who passed away on May 10, 2022.

Colonel Myers started his career in 1948 when he joined the Illinois Army National Guard, first serving in an ordnance company and later in a field artillery unit, a part of the Illinois' 44th Infantry Division. In 1970, Colonel Myers moved to Springfield to work for the Military and Naval Department, Facilities Division. During this time, Colonel Myers began a program to rehabilitate the old armories and facilities of the State and shortly after became the chief of facilities before rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He attended the Command and General Staff School and was promoted to colonel, Chief of Staff of the Illinois Army National Guard.

After his retirement in 1986, Colonel Myers continued to serve those around him as a life member of the Reserve Officer's Association, volunteer for the ombudsman for the Department of Defense, Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee, and a very active member in his church—Petersburg United Methodist Church. In 2018, Colonel Myer was recognized as one of the top 200 veterans in Illinois for the State's 200th birthday.